

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Finding on Petitions To List an Ozark Cave Crayfish and an Idaho Snail

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of finding on petitions and initiation of status review

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces 90-day petition findings for two petitions to amend the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. Substantial information has not been presented that a petition to list the cave-dwelling crayfish *Cambarus aculabrum* may be warranted. Substantial information has been presented that a petition to list the Idaho springsnail *Fontelicella idahoensis* may be warranted.

DATES: The findings announced in this notice were made in July 1988 and in October 1988 for the snail and for the crayfish, respectively. Comments and information in respect to the snail should be submitted by February 13, 1989. Other comments and information may be submitted until further notice.

ADDRESSES: Information, comments, or questions regarding the crayfish petition may be submitted to the Jackson Field

Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson Mall Office Center, Suite 316, 300 Woodrow Wilson Avenue, Jackson, Mississippi 39213 (telephone 601/965-4900, FTS 490-4900). Information, comments, or questions regarding the snail petition may be submitted to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4696 Overland Road, Room 576, Boise, Idaho 83705 (telephone 208/334-1931 or FTS 554-1931). The petitions, findings, and supporting data are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the addresses listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. James Stewart at the Jackson, Mississippi, Field Office listed above, or Mr. Charles Lobbell at the Boise, Idaho, Field Office listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended in 1982 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires that the Service make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of the receipt of the petition, and the finding is to be published promptly in the *Federal Register*. If the finding is positive, the Service is also required to promptly commence a review of the status of the involved species.

The Service has received and made a 90-day finding on the following petition from Dr. Arthur Brown. It was dated July 15, 1988, and was received by the Service on July 21, 1988. It requested the Service to list the troglomorphic (cave dwelling) crayfish *Cambarus aculabrum* as an endangered species. The petition cited known distribution of the species as limited to two caves in Benton County, Arkansas. It claimed that the caves receive moderate to heavy abuse from spelunkers and are threatened in a variety of other ways. The data was gathered incidental to status work conducted by the petitioner and his students for the Ozark cavefish, *Amblyopsis rosae*.

The Service has reviewed the petition, including a report on the Ozark cavefish by Lawrence D. Willis and Arthur V. Brown, and has communicated with Mr. Willis and examined data on the subject provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Both caves where this species is known to occur are in the Springfield Plateau, which lies in the tri-State area of Missouri, Oklahoma, and

Arkansas. The Springfield Plateau is considered isolated in terms of cave crayfish distribution. It has 29 caves known to contain cave crayfish, 20 in Missouri, 6 in Oklahoma, and 3 in Arkansas. For these 29 caves the species of the cave crayfish has been verified in only 7 caves (24 percent of the total.) Our distributional knowledge about the subject species therefore appears to be in a very early stage. Candidate status and formal status review for the species would be premature at this time.

On the basis of the best scientific and commercial information presently available, the Service determined that this petition has not presented substantial information indicating that the action requested may be warranted. The Service will remain very interested, however, in any additional information about this species as it may become available.

The Service received a petition from Dr. Peter Bowler of the University of California, Irvine, on November 12, 1987. The petition requested the Service to list the freshwater snail *Fontelicella idahoensis* (Idaho springsnail) as an endangered species. The species has also been called the Homedale Creek springsnail. Data provided by the petitioner indicates that the species has been eliminated from about 80 percent of its historic range by impoundments in the mainstem Snake River, and that it remains only in an approximately 28 river mile stretch between Bancroft Springs and the C.J. Strike Reservoir. Primary threats cited are pollution and impoundment.

The Service found that substantial information has been presented that the action requested may be warranted.

Review of the status of the Idaho springsnail *Fontelicella idahoensis*, is initiated herewith. The Service would appreciate any additional data, comments, and suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any interested party concerning this species.

Author

This notice was prepared by Dr. George Drewry, Division of Endangered Species and Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240 (703/235-1975 or FTS 235-1975).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended: Pub. L. 93-205, 87 Stat. 884; Pub. L. 94-359, 90 Stat. 911; Pub. L. 95-632, 92 Stat. 3751; Pub. L. 96-159, 93 Stat. 1225; Pub. L. 97-304, 96 Stat. 1411; Pub. L.

100-478, 102 Stat. 2306; Pub. L. 100-653, 102 Stat. 3825 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*); Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500 (1986), unless otherwise noted.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened Wildlife, Fish, Marine mammals, Plants (agriculture).

Dated: December 20, 1988.

Becky Norton Dunlop,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

[FR Doc. 88-29944 Filed 12-28-88; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M